

Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin Deer

Wildlife Health Team and Matt Verdon, CWD IT Specialist

WDNR began monitoring the state's wild white-tailed deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in 1999. Three positive deer were identified from Dane County through random testing of hunter harvested deer in November 2001. These WI index cases represented the first cases of CWD detected in wild white-tailed deer east of the Mississippi River. Over 40,000 wild deer were tested in statewide surveillance in 2002, and 200 CWD positive deer were identified in four southwestern counties.

Approximately 15,000 wild deer were tested for CWD during 2003. Retropharyngeal lymph nodes were collected for testing from 8,331 deer from the Disease Eradication Zone; 4,076 deer from the Management Zone; and 2,469 deer from other counties of the state. Results to date, with approximately 99% of the 2003 statewide surveillance testing completed, indicate that CWD is infecting deer in two apparently separate areas: one in western Dane-eastern Iowa counties, and adjacent portions of Sauk, Richland, and Columbia counties; and southeastern areas of Rock, Walworth, and Kenosha counties. CWD surveillance and monitoring helps the state further understand and control the spread of this disease.

Wisconsin CWD Surveillance in 2003:

DNR Zone	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD
Intensive Harvest / Eradication Zone	8,331	8,329	108
Management Zone	4,076	4,070	2
Remainder of Wisconsin	2,469	2,467	2
Total Sampled Statewide	14,876		
Total Analyzed Statewide		14,866	
Total Positive Statewide			112

For more detailed and updated CWD information, check the WDNR CWD website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/index.htm>